Electronic Long-Term Services and Supports (eLTSS) Initiative

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have partnered to launch the new Standards & Interoperability (S&I) Framework's electronic Long-term Services and Supports (eLTSS) Initiative.

The eLTSS Initiative will focus on identifying and harmonizing electronic resources that can enable the creation, exchange and re-use of interoperable person-centered records for use by health care and community-based social service providers, payers and the individuals they serve. The information within these records can help to improve the coordination of health and social services that support an individual's mental and physical health.
This new initiative is driven by the requirements of the CMS Testing Experience and Functional Tools (TEFT) in community-based long-term services and supports (CB-LTSS) Planning and Demonstration Grant Program created in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Value of Health IT for Person-Centered Community-Based LTSS Planning

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act introduces new approaches to health care delivery that encourage the formation of more coordinated systems and person-centered planning, many of which can be supported by health IT. The TEFT Grant Program, in particular, provides a significant opportunity to leverage health IT to help bridge quality measurement gaps specific to the experience and outcomes of care for individuals receiving community-based long-term services and supports (CB-LTSS). CB-LTSS are defined as services provided to individuals, such as frail elderly or adults with disabilities, who require daily living assistance due to physical, cognitive or chronic health conditions.

At the heart of the TEFT Grant Program is the establishment of a person-centered eLTSS record to support the needs of the CB-LTSS beneficiary, not only as they receive support and services in their community but also as they transition between institutional and non-institutional settings.

eLTSS Initiative Scope

The eLTSS Initiative will identify key client assessment domains and associated data elements that will inform the creation of a structured, longitudinal, person-centered electronic LTSS record. The eLTSS record will be designed in such a way that it can be exchanged electronically across multiple CB-LTSS settings (e.g., adult day care, beneficiary homes, group homes, foster homes, and assisted living/other supporting housing settings), institutional settings (e.g. hospitals, primary care, post-acute care) and with beneficiaries and payers. The standards identified for the eLTSS record will support interoperable exchange with various information systems to include clinical information systems, State Medicaid and Health Information Exchange (HIE) systems and Patient Health Record (PHR) systems.

The content or data elements of the eLTSS record will be specific to the types of services rendered and information collected for CB-LTSS. Beneficiary populations will be able to access the eLTSS record through their PHR system, including the option of a state-identified PHR.

Target Outcomes & Expected Deliverables

The eLTSS Initiative will provide an infrastructure to standardize the exchange of the eLTSS record across community-based information systems. In the short term, the initiative will socialize the concept of the eLTSS record, define the information model necessary to support its adoption, and inform future efforts to integrate institutional LTSS data with CB-LTSS data. In the longer term, specification of standards for the eLTSS record will support and spur development and implementation of software and pilots that will inform refinement of these standards prior to their consideration for inclusion in future Federal regulations, which include Health IT certification requirements.

Deliverables & Immediate Outcomes

1. Identification of **key client assessment domains** and associated **data elements** to include in an eLTSS record
2. Identification of standards in nationwide health IT infrastructure for eLTSS record data elements
3. Identification of functional requirements from a **Use Case** describing key conditions and business rules to enable eLTSS record exchange while protecting privacy and confidentiality
4. Development of concise **implementation guidance** using easy-to-understand documentation, user-friendly tooling and formal models to assist providers, software vendors and others in applying technical requirements for interoperable exchange of eLTSS records
5. Execution of seven TEFT grantee driven and one or more non-TEFT grantee driven **pilots** to evaluate the specific use case for eLTSS record exchange across provider information systems and with beneficiary PHR systems.
6. Identification and validation of new national **standards** for eLTSS record capture and exchange to include an agreed upon set of data elements that can be accessed in CB and institutional LTSS, and other clinical electronic information systems

Long-Term Outcomes

1. Alignment and integration to other state defined health information systems as applicable
2. Maintain alignment with the standards identified for the nationwide Health IT infrastructure
3. Engagement of the beneficiary directly in decision-making regarding types of care and services received
4. Utilization of eLTSS record data to accelerate quality improvement, population health and research initiatives
5. Improvement in provider experience and workflow when using Health IT systems for CB-LTSS

eLTSS Timeline

The eLTSS Initiative was launched on November 6th 2014. The S&I Framework Phases (Pre-Discovery, Discovery, Implementation) will be executed from November 2014 through Fall of 2015. The Pilot Phase 1 will run from Fall 2015 through Summer-Fall 2016. Revisions to the eLTSS Implementation Guidance based on Phase 1 piloting will be re-tested during Phase 2 (Fall 2016 through Fall 2017). The revised Implementation Guidance based on Phase 1 Pilots will be presented to a Standard Development Organization for balloting and publication. This timeline aligns with the CMS TEFT Demonstration Grant Timeline that incorporates two pilot cycles for the seven states required to participate in the S&I eLTSS Initiative.